GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1253
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
POOR QUALITY SEEDS
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are being repeatedly deceived with the supply of poor quality of seeds, insecticides, pesticides and fertilizer; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the farmers to achieve higher production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): 194.31 lakh quintals of seeds of different crops is available in 2007-08 against the requirement of 179.84 lakh quintals as reported by States in Zonal Input Conference. Seed production of quality seed in the country has increased by about 46.13 lakh quintals during 2006-07. The requirement/demand of Urea, (131.66 lakh tons) Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) (40.08 lakh tons) and Muriate of Potash (MoP) (18.62 lakh tons) for Rabi 2007-08 has been assessed by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in consultation with State Governments, Industry and Department of Fertilizers. The Department of Fertilizers has drawn up requisite supply plan of these fertilizers to ensure that these are available to farmers at the price fixed by the Government of India. The States have been informed accordingly.

To regulate the quality of seeds insecticides, pesticides and fertilizer, mechanisms are in place under Seeds Act, 1966, Seeds Rules 1968, Seed (Control) Order 1983, Insecticides Act, 1968, Insecticides Rules 1971, Essential Commodity Act, 1955 and Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 as amended from time to time. Enforcement of these legal instruments is vested with the State Governments/Union Territories. Inspectors notified under these legal instruments are empowered to draw the samples, seize the stock, issue stop sale order in case the commodities under reference contravene these Acts, Rules and Orders.

The details of assistance provided under various scheme to ensure availability of certified seeds to farmers at an affordable price are given in the Annexure.